AY 2019-20 Graduate Student Research
Initiative Instructions

The Graduate Student Research Initiative (GSRI) supports research endeavors by graduate students. Projects may emerge as class assignments but the submitted proposal should lead to research beyond the classroom toward juried presentations and publications. Proposals are expected to apply a methodologically appropriate research design or creative process and achieve a significant level of academic sophistication beyond typical class projects or research papers. The proposals will be reviewed by a cohort of graduate peers in a blind/juried process. Each proposal will receive a maximum of $500 to be used for any activities relevant to the research project or the dissemination of its results.

Project Narrative (Parts A-E)
A proposal narrative not exceeding 3 pages (single-spaced, pt.12 font) addressing parts A-E as described below should be submitted.

Part A: Project Goals and Outcomes:
Provide a clear statement of the project goals and outcomes
- For a research project: provide a clearly stated purpose and the project outcome or deliverable.
- For a creative project: discuss the scope or project intentions.

Part B: Project Significance:
Provide background information or context that explains the research or creative project itself and the necessity of the project.
- For research project: discuss the project's significance, benefit or contribution to yourself, to others and/or to the discipline. Identify the limitations or faultiness of earlier research.
- Provide a brief statement about the relative scholarly, artistic, or merit of the proposed project which may include intellectual contributions to discipline.
- For creative projects: Discuss the critical influences of earlier works upon this project. Include a statement of progression that demonstrates artistic independence and coherent expression of style or vision.

Part C: Understanding the Work of Others
Demonstrate a clear understanding of other work in the field and how that work informs or influences this project.
- For research projects: include a literature review and/or analysis of previous work
- For creative projects: include citation of influences on your creative work and this creative project

Part D: Methods and Analysis
Discuss the methods and procedures to be used in the project.
- For a research project: describe the methods, procedures, and the process of analysis or evaluation that will be used to draw conclusions.

- For a creative project: describe the methods, form, content and techniques to be used.

Part E: Timeline and Budget:
- Provide a timeline for accomplishing various phases of the project and discuss the feasibility of delivering the project's goals within the stated timeline.
- Summarize project costs (stipend, materials and supplies, equipment, and/or facilities needed and any other expected costs that will be incurred in the process of completing the project) and provide an explanation of how those costs will be covered.
- Projects requiring the purchase of materials to complete the proposed scope of work can make those acquisitions pre-award. Those materials and estimates must appear in the budget. Otherwise, research awards are disbursed at the completion of the project.

Statement of Faculty Support:
All projects must include faculty oversight. The faculty must sign a consent of support on the proposal application cover sheet. The proposal should discuss the role of each member of the collaboration. The proposal may also include other outlets that the participants have/make seek for their work (research poster sessions, conferences, etc.).

Proposal Evaluation

Each proposal will be evaluated based on the following FIVE criteria:

- A clear statement of the project goals and outcomes, including the scope of a creative project or the purpose of a research project.
- The expression of a clear artistic or creative progression for creative projects or an explicit statement of the project's significance for research projects.
- A clear understanding of other work in the field and how that work informs or influences this project.
- A clear statement of form and technique for creative projects, or methods, procedures and analysis to be used for research projects.
- Reasonable and appropriate timeline and budget.

These evaluation metrics are provided so that applicants better understand the review process used in the evaluation of individual projects.

Submission Information

All proposals must be submitted electronically in MS Word to mark.hawkes@dsu.edu by the submission deadline, Sept. 13, 2019. Late proposals, and those without a statement of support from a faculty advisor and without a signature from the faculty member's dean, will not be considered for funding.

Projects will be evaluated under the auspices of the University Research Committee and the Office of Graduate Studies. Successful applicants will be required to present their work at DSU's annual Research Symposia on the week of March 23, 2020 via poster session (other formats for presentation are available for creative projects). A poster template will be provided to aid with the process.   Additionally, successful applicants will be required to provide a written summary of their project and findings at the conclusion of the project. This written summary may also include (as appropriate for the project), additional content, such as software or hardware, photographs, manuscripts, etc., as outlined in the proposed deliverables.

<u>DOs and DON'Ts:</u>

- **DON'T** submit a proposal merely as part of a class assignment.
- **DO** carefully proofread and refine your proposal. The proposal is the only thing reviewers have to judge your project; ensure that it is representative of your very best work.
- **DON'T** cut and paste the work of others into your proposal. Your proposal may refer to or account for the work of others, but make sure that information appears in your own words.
- **DO** explain your proposal so that a reviewer from outside the field can understand your project. If you need to use a discipline-specific term, explain it so that reviewers understand its context.
- **DON'T** propose a research project intended to teach you a skill or process. Research should operate from a platform of known data and/or processes and proceed to gather information that benefits the discipline and informs the work of others.
- **DON'T** propose a creative project intended merely to repackage the artistic or creative vision of others. Creative work should demonstrate an independent, coherent expression of your style and vision.

Important Dates:
- August 7, 2019 – call for proposal open
- Sept. 13, 2019 – Proposal submissions due to mark.hawkes@dsu.edu
- Week of Oct. 7, 2019 – announcement of awards
- Week of Mar. 23, 2020 – DSU Research Symposium
- April 5, 2020 – final report due to mark.hawkes@dsu.edu